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Taqadum National SLIT Workshop Event Report

October 2013



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Taqadum National SLIT Workshop Event Report

Executive Summary

Provincial Councils (PCs) currently do not have standardized systems or mechanisms for sub-legislation implementation tracking. To address this gap, USAID-Taqadum developed the Sub-Legislation Implementation Tracking (SLIT) system, an electronic archiving and tracking system for documenting, archiving, tracking, and reporting the implementation of sub-legislation issued by the PCs. In September 2013, Taqadum began training technicians and IT specialists from newly established PC SLIT task forces and joint PC-GO SLIT committees from 12 provinces in three regional workshops. The SLIT electronic system must be adopted by the PC before it can be formally implemented. In addition, a working mechanism must be established between the PC and Governor's Office (GO) to institutionalize and sustain the SLIT process. Furthermore, PC members and legal staff lack experience in drafting legislation in terms of legal structures concerning sub-legislations and resolutions.

Taqadum conducted a national workshop "Adopting Electronic System for Sub-legislation Implementation Tracking and Effective Sub-Legislative Drafting" in Erbil, 23-25 October. The workshop was attended by 47 participants including representatives from the State Shura Council and Ministry of State, PC members, PC Legal Committee Chairs, senior GO officials and advisors, members of the PC-GO SLIT joint committees, and programmers from 12 provinces (Anbar, Babil, Basrah, Dhi Qar, Diwaniyah, Diyala, Karbala, Najaf, Muthanna, Ninawa, Salah ad Din, and Wasit). The main goal of the workshop was to encourage formal adoption SLIT electronic system, establish required mechanisms between the PC and GO for proper tracking, and to introduce to the principles of drafting effective legislation.



**USAID-Taqadum National Workshop on
Adopting an Electronic System for
Sub-Legislation Implementation Tracking and
Drafting Effective Legislation**

*Canyon Hotel, Erbil
October 23-25, 2013*



Summary

Provincial Councils (PCs) currently do not have standardized systems or mechanisms for sub-legislation implementation tracking. To address this gap, USAID-Taqadum developed the Sub-Legislation Implementation Tracking (SLIT) system, an electronic archiving and tracking system for documenting, archiving, tracking, and reporting the implementation of sub-legislation issued by the PCs. In September 2013, Taqadum began training technicians and IT specialists from newly established PC SLIT task forces and joint PC-GO SLIT committees from 12 provinces in three regional workshops. The SLIT electronic system must be adopted by the PC before it can be formally implemented. In addition, a working mechanism must be established between the PC and Governor's Office (GO) to institutionalize and sustain the SLIT process. Furthermore, PC members and legal staff lack experience in drafting legislation in terms of legal structures concerning sub-legislations and resolutions.

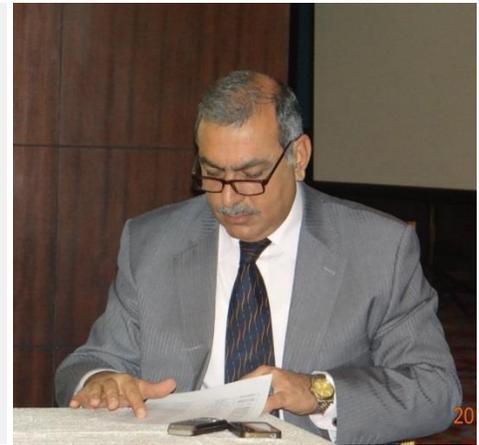
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Representatives from the Najaf and Diwaniyah PC-GO joint committees highlighted each committee experience in establishing the PC-GO joint committee and adopting Taqadum’s electronic SLIT system. The Najaf representative stated that Taqadum facilitated several meetings and provided ongoing technical assistance and on-job training for committee staff. The Diwaniyah SLIT Committee member (photo) indicated that the establishment of the committee faced many difficulties in the beginning, but with the help of Taqadum Project “all these problems were solved out and now we have a functional SLIT committee.”

[I highly appreciate the efforts of Taqadum project for conducting this national workshop. I think all provinces should have a unified electronic system for archiving decisions and sub-legislation issued by PCs. This will help each PC share experience with other PCs and offer a chance to citizens to get acquainted with these decisions and legislation]

[I suggest that a separate workshop be conducted to teach newly-elected provincial officials on how to draft good legislation.]



Participants then divided into working groups and identified the following as major obstacles to establishing an effective electronic system for sub-legislation implementation tracking (SLIT):

- 1) Some provinces are still behind in the formation of a PC-GO SLIT committee or PC taskforce;
- 2) Lack of coordination in the PC-GO joint committee;
- 3) Lack of financial and administrative support from the GO and PC;
- 4) Absence of interest of some provinces in tracking the implementation of decisions issued by provincial councils; and
- 5) Lack of skilled staff for electronic documenting, archiving and reporting the implementation of legislation.





During the second day of the workshop, Taqadum staff reviewed with participants the obstacles identified by participants in the first day and requested participants to split into three breakout groups. Participants were engaged in lively discussion to develop recommendations to sustain the use of electronic system to track the implementation of sub-legislation.

[This workshop will pave the way to institutionalizing the tracking of sub-legislation implementation. PCs are requested to incorporate SLIT units into their structures, and provide the unit with all necessary requirements to establish and support the electronic system.]

Mrs. Ahlam Rashid, Babil PC Chair and Legal Committee Chair



During the workshop, Mr. Muhannad Raji, Taqadum's STTA database designer, provided additional training to attending provincial programmers on how to use Taqadum's electronic system. Programmers said they had better understanding on how to use the system and generate reports using this system.



SLIT RECOMMENDATIONS

- Create a unit for the electronic archiving and tracking of sub-legislations to be associated to the PC Legal Committee
- Provide the necessary requirements for installing the electronic system by the PC
- Adopt Taqadam's electronic SLIT system by the 12 PCs
- The PC and GO should establish sustainable mechanisms to use and sustain the electronic system database, supported by PC legislation.
- Conduct training courses to improve skills of staff working on this electronic system by the programmer trained by Taqadam
- Conduct ongoing follow-up by the PC and GO to the implementation of decisions and sub-legislations issued by the PC
- Conduct regular meetings between PC and GO taskforce to coordinate work and identify obstacles to the implementation of the system.
- Generate the final draft of SLIT working manual which will be distributed to all 12 provinces

Day three was dedicated to address a serious issue facing PC members and staff: lack of experience in drafting sub-legislations in terms of legal structures concerning sub-legislations and resolutions.

Taqadam staff introduced participants to the principles of legislative drafting and its importance for issuing effective and clear legislation. Participants were then split into three working groups to brainstorm a PC decision as an exercise based on the elements taught by Taqadam staff. After lively discussions, participants presented and discussed decisions on the following issues:

- 1) Organizing the work of private clinics;
- 2) Illegal disposal of solid wastes; and
- 3) Organizing the work of private generators.

A member of each working group presented the draft decision which was then discussed by participants.



LEGISLATIVE DRAFTING RECOMMENDATIONS

- A manual for legislative drafting be developed to enable provincial councils to effectively and consistently draft local sub-legislations that can be implemented by the executive branch
- Regional workshops to be held to have more understanding on how to draft legislation



Additional quotes:

Issuing and tracking of legislation is the core function of provincial councils. Consequently, PCs should support Taqadum's initiative to establish effect sub-legislation implementation tracking system.

Ahmed Abdul Hussein, Basrah PC Legal Committee Chair

The establishment of an electronic system for tracking implementation of legislation is a big stride in the work of PC and will open new horizon for effective management and close tracking of PC sub-legislations and decisions. Taqadum is highly appreciated for assisting in this direction.

Mr. Shakir Hammod, Anbar Governor Legal Advisor